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TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade)	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade)
1 AFAAC	Coord	<i>Crane</i>	1 AFXDC	Coord	<i>Clay</i>
2 AFODC	Coord	<i>Robert M. O'Connor</i>	2 AFCVC	Appr	<i>Ryan</i>
3 AFRDC	Coord	<i>Graham M. G.</i>			
4 AFSDC	Coord	<i>Conroy</i>			
5 AFNIN	Coord	<i>Conroy</i>			

SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE	SYMBOL	PHONE	TYPIST'S INIT.	SUSPENSE DATE
Col Walker	AFXOTR	74766	dm	

SUBJECT: Air Force Assumption of A-12 Responsibilities

DATE: 14 AUG 1968

1. At an 8 Aug meeting, the EXCOM requested DNRO to ascertain whether the Air Force would assume the storage and removal responsibilities for the A-12 aircraft/support package currently in contractor storage at Alameda.
2. Consideration has been given, inter alia, to assets currently in storage, employment probabilities and both storage and operating costs. Other major factors were the DepSecDef recommendation that destruction be considered as well as the possible termination of the "other air force" potential.
3. Nine aircraft are involved. Five of these are in a flyable storage status with a dedicated AGE/spares support package for 90 days operation. Approval to employ the A-12 for overhead operations appears improbable for the foreseeable future, if ever. If, however, national needs do result in partial/full reconstitution of this force, operation as a USAF entity is considered a must. Annual storage cost for this irreplaceable overhead reconnaissance asset is a miniscule \$125K. The common/peculiar breakout of spares runs about 50% on a dollar basis; however, the complete support package should remain inviolate until aircraft utilization is approved or destruction is directed by USAF.
4. Although it appears paradoxical to consider acquiring potentially unusable aircraft when current reconnaissance programs are being decimated by budget actions, it seems of vital importance from both USAF and national viewpoints to preserve this exotic capability for at least three years. Agreement to assume responsibilities should, however, be conditional upon EXCOM assurance that operations, when and if directed, would be under the control of USAF.

NRO review(s) completed.

USAF review(s)
completed.

TOP SECRET

RECOMMENDATION

5. Concur with EXCOM proposal, use Talking Paper at Atch 1.



Atch
Talking Paper

SAM J. BYERLEY, Maj Gen, USAF
Director of Operations
JCS/Plans and Operations

TOP SECRET